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## **AFRL Commander nominated for second star**

*by Jill Bohn, AFRL Public Affairs*

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AFB, Ohio — Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL) Commander Brig. Gen. Paul D. Nielsen has been nominated for appointment to the grade of major general, according to a release from the United States Department of Defense. He will receive his second star in a ceremony held Friday, June 29 at the Air Force Museum.

Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld announced recently that General Nielsen was among those nominated by President George W. Bush to the Senate for appointment.

General Nielsen has served as AFRL Commander, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base since April 2000. In this position, he directs the Air Force's \$1.4 billion science and technology budget together with an additional \$1.1 billion from the laboratory's customers. Approximately 5,400 people in the laboratory's technology directorates and the Air Force Office of Scientific Research execute the science and technology program. He is the Air Force's technology executive officer and determines the investment strategy for the full spectrum of Air Force science and technology activities.

General Nielsen is a native of New Orleans, La., and a distinguished graduate of the Air Force Academy with bachelor of science degrees in physics and mathematics. He earned a master of science degree in applied physics at the Livermore campus of the University of California, Davis, as a Hertz Foundation fellow. He returned to Livermore and was awarded his doctorate in plasma physics, again as a Hertz Foundation fellow. He also holds a master's of business administration degree from the University of New Mexico and is a graduate of National War College.

Entering the Air Force in 1972, he has served in various positions at the headquarters level and in the field. General Nielsen has served at three product centers and three laboratories, including assignments at the Secretary of the Air Force's Office of Special Projects, the Department of Energy's Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, and as vice commander of Aeronautical Systems Center.

General Nielsen was awarded his first star on Sept. 1, 1997. @